CLEAN VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

10. (Amended) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule, or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide, wherein the persephin polypeptide

I1 (a) comprises seven canonical framework cysteine residues,

(b) has at least 85% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:223, and

(c) promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

Sub J2

I2 12. (Amended) The isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto of claim 10 comprising SEQ ID NO:199 or SEQ ID NO:201.

13. (Amended) A vector comprising expression regulatory elements operably

I3 linked to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 10.

15. (Amended) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(a) a pre-pro persephin nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:203 or

I4 SEQ ID NO:205; or J

(b) a pre-pro region of a persephin polynucleotide as set forth SEQ ID NO:213 or SEQ ID NO:215.

34. (Amended) A non-naturally occurring nucleic acid molecule or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide

I5 (a) comprises seven canonical framework cysteine residues,

(b) has at least 85% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:221, and

(c) promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

Sub J2

35. (Amended) A vector comprising expression regulatory elements operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule or the nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto of claim 34.

36. (Amended) A cell which produces the non-naturally occurring nucleic acid molecule or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto of claim 34.